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THE  
JOURNAL OF FIRST  
LIEUTENANT  
ROBERT S.  
DILWORTH  
COMPANY I  
21ST OHIO  
VOLUNTEER  
INFANTRY



ROBERT S. DILWORTH WHOSE JOURNAL  
IS HERE REPRODUCED. THE WORDS  
THAT ARE UNREADABLE ARE SHOWN  
AS \_\_\_\_.

THIS IS LARGELY DUE TO BADLY  
FADED INK IN THE ORIGINAL COPY. NO  
ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO CHANGE  
OF PUT WORDS IN THE BLANKS.

IN THE COLLECTION OF THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
TRANSCRIBED BY RICHARD MANN 1997



The  
Journal of Company I, 21st Ohio Volunteer Infantry  
in the hand of  
First Lieutenant Robert Sample Dilworth

The Journal was among the effects of Lois ( Blakeman ) Dilworth (born 1841) at the time of her death in 1927 ( buried Harmon Cemetery) at her home at 1106 East Second Street, Ottawa, Ohio, and came into the possession of Grandmother Mary S. (Bowman) Frick at that time. Grandmother was a niece of Aunt Lo and made her home after the death of her mother, Mary Calista ( Blakeman ) Bowman, until her marriage to grandfather David A Frick. The journal has been preserved by the Frick family down through the years, and it is intended that it now be placed in the archives of the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus.

Lieutenant Dilworth was a resident of either Hancock or Putnam County and entered the military service from that area during the early years of the Civil War. He was known to great Grandfather John Bowman and to great Uncle David Schuyler Blakeman ( 1st Sergeant, Company D, 97th O.V.I. , later Second Lieutenant, 50th O.V.I. ). It is likely that he and Aunt Lo were married in 1864 while he was back home recruiting for his Regiment, then located in Tennessee. She probably never saw him again when he returned to the fighting as he was killed in action on the 27th of June, 1864 during the Battle of Kenesaw mountain. he is buried in the Marietta, Georgia, National Cemetery, Section C Grave 2297. Apparently upon his promotion to First lieutenant he was reassigned to company G as this is where the Journal ends.

Edward H. Frick  
June 1977





**WAR TIME PHOTO OF LIEUT DILWORTH**

Robert Van Dorn collection





*H. NOSS,*

*New Brighton, Pa.*

**MRS ROBERT ( LOIS BLAKEMAN) DILWORTH**

Robert VanDorn Collection



Camp of the 21st Regt O.V.I.  
Orchard, Tenn

Headquarters Co I  
August 3, 1863  
Diary 6th  
Dept of the Cumberland

On the 24th day of June the army of the Cumberland pulled stakes at Murfreesboro, Tenn (when it had held forth for 6 months & 19 days) For the purpose of seeking out the whereabouts of the chilverous Bragg whom Gen Rosie was desirous to punish for several incluilites towards himself & men who were battling for liberty guaranteed to all mankind under the constitution of the U.S. which the same Bragg & vandals were endeavoring to break down. But as I said we struck tents & as usual midst rain and storm started driving toward, for the afore said purpose. We traveled until late that night when worn, wet, muddy & shelterless we bivouacked. Next morning ( 25th) I woke with a small lake surrounding me. I had not been awaked by the pelting rain, altho I had not but a gum blanket to secure my person from the storm. The camp was all astir in good reason, all having faired alike. We took up the line of march about \_\_\_\_ and about \_\_\_\_ our skirmishers came up with those rebels \_\_\_\_\_. Upon the 9th of July we arrived at this place where we have been ever since. Upon the 8th of July we pitched camp on a hill over looking a beautiful little creek 1/4 miles west of orchard station ( upon the R.R. running from Nashville to Stephenson) & 2 1/2 miles N.E. from Manchester, Tenn. We are very busily engaged policing camp for several days. Upon the 9th I was sent out upon picket nothing of importance occurred. I had a very romantic & picturesque place on the morning of the 10th. I was relieved by the 88th Indiana about 10 o'clock. I came to camp & when I reported to my Co I found 2 letters awaiting me and my first Lieutenant companion which spoke as plainly as words could speak, you must leave Co G and begin a new. On the 11th I was assigned to Co I, 21st O.V.I. At 2 pm of the 11th I had finished moving and bid goodby to my old company where I spent so many pleasant and happy hours. Altho I was loath to leave yet every day. I defend I was keeping a brave and good & generous fellows from his rights which I did not wish to do. So I left & J.R. porter was inaugurated 2nd Lieut of Co G. Now all of Co G officers are stiff and valid democrats. On the 21st I with the Capt, 2nd Lieut & 26 men went on picket. All went off quietly. When the relief went out at \_\_\_\_ am of the 22nd they found the corp and all his relief fast asleep. We were relieved at the usual hour & then the preparation for pay involved the repainder of the day. We were paid upon the 23rd and on the 24th turned over the monies of the companies to the state agent amounting to over \$2100 Co G sent over \$2600 with the agent & a considerable amount with individuals & by letter. Every day when our brigade has not pickets out we have brigade drill. On the 25th we were ordered out on a foraging expedition. We went some 15 or 16 miles over such roads making at least 30 miles. We made out a load of wheat. Some of the boys bought chickens, geese, apples & potatoes & paid for them. But being found absent from their commands by the Regt. Provost Marshal, Maj McMahon, they were arrested & charges preferred for leaving their commands for the purpose of pillage Etc. We got back to camp about 7 pm. The news of the great & glorious victories in favor of our arms was received with great joy by the boys but without which beaching above the war cloud which has covered the zenith & hung so heavily upon the horizon of our country & nation. Freedom is hailed with much pleasure with the war & sunburned soldier. Oh! that this young republic which has been so serverly baptized in blood & \_\_\_\_ may come for this \_\_\_\_\_. Oh! that these dreaded missions of Jeff Davis may be brought took to this alliance to the \_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_ this glorious government which they enorivouly thought \_\_\_\_ up. On the hill of Bunker, the \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ and the last battlefield of the revolution this republic was dedicated in the baptism of blood and fire to freedom & to man. On the 30th we were on picket 15 officers, 40 noncoms & 500 men. There was also a detail of 50 men and one officer as brigade provost guards, likewise a fatigue party besides the camp guard. On the 30th the rain fell heavily for a great portion of the day. On the Sabbath 2nd we had a sermon from a man from Penn. A very appreciate sermon. His text was 3rd & 12th verse, 22nd & 27th Chapter, Proverbs of Solomon. After sermon the minister distributed testaments, hymn books and religious papers. Monday Aug 3rd sutlers of the 21st brought a large lot of sutlers goods, beer, Ale etc. About 1/2 of the Regiment became merry over it and some so that they had to be take



taken into custody. Everything went quietly considering the amount of beer which had been drank. We have got a new sheep skin band & the guards are being mounted. The order has come to muster out the drafted men and send them home. 9 command officers & 6 enlisted men are going home to recruit the 21st Regt. We have visitors this evening, two Capts from the 3rd O.V.C. But it is late & I must retire.

ORCHARD, TENN August 5, 1863

Very hot & sultry. Capt Vantine officer of the day. Lieut Keller Co E, officer of the guard, Lieut Mercer Co E, officer of the provost guard. Capt Allen, Co D, Lieut Clehorn, Co I & Lieut Buman of Co C with 100 men have been sent out upon a foraging expedition. Lieut Patterson & 30 men are out on a fatigue duty & there has just been a call for 10 more men to accompany another forage train. We had an other rich old night last night & I did not sleep until 2 o'clock this morning on account of a drunken \_\_\_\_\_. I got the boy's pacified and got to sleep from about 2 A.M. sky has become \_\_\_\_\_ and a fine shower is now being sent upon the drooping vegetation. Well, I will stop writing until after the shower & take a nap. We had a nice shower & after the shower, the air was much cooler. At 6 P.M. we had a dress parade.

ORCHARD TENN August 6, 1863

Morning cool and pleasant. But as the day advanced the heat became almost intolerable. There were 8 men come to the Regt who were left back sick. I out the papers of one man and started him home today. We expect to march today. We have orders to send back all the sick and extra arms and ammunition etc, etc. Sgt Major was sent back on account of bad health. We have been blessed with a splendid shower which has washed away all the filth of camp. I have found a revolver which was stolen from me about a week since. The thief was intoxicated and came down to my Co & sold the revolver for \$ 5.00 and I knew my property yet to \_\_\_\_\_ the parties it took 1st Lieut Co G, 2nd Sgt & James Cooper likewise of Co G and proved the property. We had a dress parade at 6 P.M. & a very nice parade we had. Our guards & provost were relieved about 9 P.M. Officer of the day Capt Caton, Officer of the guard, Lieut Dubs both of Co H. We have been deprived of the pay for a servant & cut down \$ 22.00 upon our wages. Now look out for resignations. All the men who serve for pay & who have not the good of there country in mind, but who labor for the almighty dollar. I expect when we move we will move to the Tennessee river. The news has been received that Ft Wagner has fallen & that our armies have again been victorious. Capt Vantine is very sick this weekend. The train bound north & thus bound south made a collision \_\_\_\_\_ & killed 3 men & wounded several. We had one man return to the Co from convalescent camp. But the drum's are beating & I must attend roll call so good by for the night.

Camp of the 21st O.V.I. DECHARD TENN Monday August 10, 1863

Since I last wrote 4 days has rolled there way around, and we are four days nearer eternity. On the 7th we had Brigade drill and after drill the rain fell so unceasingly that I could not write & we have nothing but shelter tents. On the 8th we had to go on picket. 15 command officers, 42 noncoms & 270 men on picket. We had a detail of 8 men from the company, 5 noncoms & 2 command. We had a detail of four men from the company & 4 noncoms & 1 command for provost guard. We had one Capt as officer of the day, one Lieut as officer of the guard, 4 noncoms & 3 men from A company as field guards in all a detail of 420 men, 54 noncoms & 20 command officers on duty the 8th. Nothing of importance through the day. The order for the recruiting officers to go home to fill up the Regt came in whilst were on picket, but we did not receive it until we were relived. The night passed off very quietly. We were relieved about 9 A.M. of the 9th & came into camp. Then came preparations ( on the part of a chosen few ) to depart for the north. We had a very good & appreciate sermon preached ( by a minister from the valley's of the Allegheny ) from the 9th verse of the 10th chapter the gospel according to John. I am the door Etc, etc. he preached a very affecting sermon. Said that it was last time he would address us ( We having received orders to march ) He said like cave men go forth meet our common enemy on tented field whilst he would return to minister his people upon the great mountain's & in the peaceful valleys of the Allegheny. Then he wound up with a prayer for the preservation whilst on the field midst the shafts of the enemy,



and for the President, his cabinet, the officers & men of the Cumberland to Mississippi, the Tennessee, the Potomac & in short for our arms in general. That this cruel war might be crushed out & might be put to shame and confusion and that right might prevail & sin & uncleanness might be blotted from this our beloved once peaceful country, that the time might soon come when one might set beneath his own vine and fig when there would be none to hunt and destroy. The detail of the 21st started for Ohio at 2 1/2 P.M. We had brigade dress parade in the evening from 5 till 7. It was a splendid sight to see, 4 Regt's in one straight line all going through the manual of arms at the same time. To see the 4 stands of colors, 4 flags, & 4 banners marched out along the line & in front to the center & saluted by the Col commanding & by the present arms from the staff & field & line officers & men of the whole brigade, all the same instant as one man. We will have the same performance every Sabbath evening. We have inspection every Sabbath. All of which makes the Sabbath the most busy day of the 7. Capt Vantine is still sick & unfit duty. Roll call at 4 A.M., doctor call at 5 A.M., breakfast at 6 & inspection at 6 1/2. Co I guns were the best in the Regt, but Capt Vantine & Lieut Clighorn were the most disorderly and the most zealous officers of the Regt & Capt Caton of Co H is the most. The order came for the drafted men to go home. I got a picture taken for the boy's who were going on leave. C.W. Brooks & I set together. The order came in for the 1st Brigade to go to Tullahoma, Tenn., the 2nd to Cowan Station & the 3rd to remain where we are. I do not know how reliable this is. Capt Allen is officer of the day, Lieut Dubbs officer of the guard & 3 men from each company & 4 noncoms of the field guard. 4 men from each company on fatigue duty, 3 noncoms & 1 officer on fatigue. Lieut Mahoney of Co K, 4 noncoms, 4 men from each Company on provost guards. Col Neibling got a pass for 3 or 4 days to go to Nashville. He left on last Monday and has not returned yet. He is reported absent-without-leave. I received a letter from my sister in Hancock Co, O dated Aug 2nd & mailed Aug 6th. I also received a letter from the War Department concerning my muster also denying the reception of the Company rolls, which I sent in the same envelope with the balance of my papers, which they received. There are great cheering in camp on account of the news of some kind, but the news has not come to the 21st yet, let it be as it may. Well the bugle sounds lights out. Good night.

Camp of the 21st O.V.I. DECHARD, Tenn August 11, 1863

Another busy day has rolled it's amplex sound & born it's records to eternity. Reveille was beat at 4 1/2 A.M., roll call then the cleaning of quarters, streets etc., 5 1/2 sick call, but very few sick to report at 6 breakfast call at 1/2 past 6, inspection at 8 A.M. guard mounting. Officer of the day Capt Alban Co F, officers of the guard Lieut \_\_\_\_ Co D, from each company 3 privates, one & 3 Corps 10 men, one command officer & 4 noncoms were detailed as guard over the convalescent \_\_\_\_ camp. The 2nd brigade has marched 7 miles to the front and are now at Cowen Station. The 1st brigade has orders to march tomorrow but where to can not say yet. The rumor is that the 3rd brigade will guard railroads from tullahoma, Tenn to Stephenson, Ala. I have had a very busy day today over hauling the Co (I) book all of which I found in a bad condition. I just got the clothing and descriptive books posted and corrected & a nice job I had. I sent out and got 1/2 bushel of potatoes for the mere sum of \$2.00 and a 1/2 peck of onions for \$ 1.00 or 25 cents per dozen. Butter 50 cents per pound, cucumbers 10 cents a piece, apples \$16.00 per bushel, ripe peaches 3 small ones for 25 cents or 2 very nice ones, chicken as large quail 25 cents & common chickens 30 cents. We have orders for brigade drill but before we could get ready our orders were countermanded. Madam rumor says Charleston, S.C. has fallen ( But I don't believe it ) and that's what caused the cheering in some of the camps last night. The mail came in today at regular time, but no news for me. The papers contain no news of importance. It's clouding up & the blaze of lighting in the southwest speaks of a shower. The weather is exceeding hot at present. Well it is getting along pretty well into the night & I must go to bed and enjoy the repose which is necessary to fit the boys to under go the labors of succeeding day, so good night..

Camp of the 21st O.V.I. August 12, 1863

Another hard days work is done. It has been very hot today 94° but it has appearance of rain, the sky has become overcast and the muddling of distant thunders is distinctly heard. The mail train did not come



in until this evening. The track and bridge across Stone River gave away. No damage was done. Capt Wicker of Co E is officer of the day. Lieut Martin Co F is officer of the guard. From each company 3 men & one Sgt & 3 Corps and field guard 4 men from each Company, 4 non coms from the Regt & Lieut Eleghorn of Co I on Provost Guard. With 8 men from each Company 8 non coms & Lieut Keller of Co F guarding the correll. 4 men & Lieut Lamb of Co B on fatigue duty. We have just got our clothing returns & vouchers Etc made out and filed. We have 7 months to account for & all the papers etc had been lost \_\_\_\_\_ him we have had getting \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. I have appointed the different work to be done by each. My \_\_\_\_\_ is to keep the books all right. The orderly to draw rations, make detailed, report guards etc & the 2nd Lieut to draw out clothing & the Capt Commanding the company. We only had 3 men excused from guard. Light duty means dress parade sweeping out quarters etc. Col Neibling has been detailed upon Courts Marshall at Nashville, Tenn. There has been 18 old officers of the 21st resigned & one died making 19 old officers gone from the Regt & one shot in the Battle of Stones River. But it is after taps & I must read my bible at least one chapter per day. I am to the 5th chapter of the songs of Solomon since the 1st of January, Good night.

Camp of the 21st O.V.I. ORCHARD, TENN August 15, 1863

The rain commenced and continued until dark, when it ceased and we had a very pleasant night for duty. I had one prisoner \_\_\_\_\_ of Co E. Whilst occupied in getting supplies one of the boy's of his company offended him & he threw a skillet of hot grease into his face. Capt & 2nd Lieut were both intoxicated. Our cook became suddenly sick, so I had to prepare supper. Capt Curry returned to camp. he left a very short time before we left Murfreesboro. He was at home and thus missed the hard marches to which the Regiment was subjected. We have 80 correll guards out daily.

August 14th. 392 men, 49 non coms & 15 command went on picket duty this morning. 80 correll guards, 30 field guards on duty to day. Capt Caton officer of the guard. A tremendous rain and storm swept over us and the surrounding country. Rain thunder, lightning & storm. the thunder for a short time could compare to nothing but a Parrot battery. The lightning you could hear it as it whizzed through the air just like a Minie ball speeding to it's victim. It is terribly grand and sublime. Lieut Anderson of Co D returned to camp today. he has been home sick. he got a sick furlough & went home from Murfreesboro. But I guess he was sick of love for he went home and got married and I suppose he well had a right too. Well I am officer of the guard again. That is every other day. On the 12th again the 13th but I must get ready for duty so good night till tomorrow morning. When I stopped writing I said I was detailed for duty. Well so I was but another officer took my place. Lieut Odulls of Co H. He was officer of the guard and Captain Canfield of Co K officer of the day. We had orders for Regt inspection at 2 1/2 P.M. & brigade dress parade at 5 P.M. But we were prevented from doing this by a storm of rain, thunder and lightening which lasted until time to get ready for parade. We formed on the parade ground in front of the brigade the music all formed in the center 18 drums & about the same fifers. The colors of the different Regts met with there guards at Headquarters & after the \_\_\_\_\_ was formed the Col commanding gave the command for Co G to escort the colors so Capt Cussac took his company. he wheeled into platoons and marched to the Cols quarters. When the colors were assembled ( 4 colors & 4 Banners ) and then wheeled his company into platoons and the colors took place between the 1st & 2nd platoons and to quick time marched out to the Regt coming left of center and in front of the Col when the Capt wheeled his company into line the colors taking place in front. The Col commanding then \_\_\_\_\_ be presented he then about faced and saluted the colors the honors played by the music. The colors then were placed in there respective places & the Co escort took it's place in line. Then came the maneuverings with arms. The reports of the companies by their orderlies. Then parade \_\_\_\_\_. We received the orders to march. we had 82 line officers of command, on parade, 3 Lieut Cols & 8 Majors, 4 Adjuants. The Col commanding & staff consisting of 3 Cpts, and inspector & Provost Marshal. 3 Lieuts Quartermaster and a donothing. This formed the parade. But I must stop for now. Dr Payne, Asst Surgeon left for home, but nothing more to say. Good Night.

CAVE SPRING, ALABAMA August 20, 1863



On the morning of the 16th I was detailed as officer of the guard. Just as I reported after guard mounting orders came to be ready to march at a moments notice \_\_\_\_ we marched & I was rear guard. I with my guard brought up the rear. We arrived at the foot of the mountain about 3 P.M. We had then \_\_\_\_ miles of mountain. We marched over the worst road I ever saw & one wagon broke down and one cassion broke down coming down the mountain. We drove about the center of the mountain \_\_\_\_ that night But it was late we had excellent water. When I came with my rear guard they sent me on picket & the night passed quickly. The Major of the 42nd Indiana became intoxicated and fell off his hors and got injured. At 10\*, the morning of the 17th the brigade comes along and I fell in with my company. But a part of the guard was not relieved until 1 P.M./ and by that time the brigade was 6 miles in advance. We marched to the foot of the mountain and there put up until the teams would come up. We camped that night close to the foot of the mountain. That evening we had about 10 acres of corn issued out which was all the grub we had. The night was dark and damp. The day has been extremely hot. Co C went on picket. On the morning of the 18th we had a detail of 8 men & a Corp. to go back 3 miles for rations. We pulled up about 10 O'Clock and marched 16 miles to within 1/2 mile of our present camp. The day was very hot and not more than one half of the Regiment came through the remaining having given out. But came out next morning all right. We halted about 10 o'clock and bivouacked through the night. The night was very damp and dark. The morning of the 18th I went up over the mountain and a beautiful view presented it's self to view. The camp lying in the valley beneath and the rocks and mountain scenery around and on all sides \_\_\_\_ to the front with the \_\_\_\_ of squirrel, the chirping of the birds, the whiz & rattle of the rattle snake as he hurried out of sight beneath the huge rock. The babbling of the mountain stream as it disappeared it's way over rocks and roots to the bottom. Whilst I was busy upon the \_\_\_\_ nature the shrill sound of the bugle sounded forth the call to fall in. Then could be seen the soldiers on all sides hurrying toward the encampment. We then moved on to our present camp. We were there having engaged all day to fixing up our camp. At evening we went to the creek ( Croio Creek ) and had a nice wash.

#### CAVE SPRING. ALABAMA August 21, 1863

The Capt ( Vantine ) was out to the creek and caught 2 nice fish. Officer of the day, Capt Caton Co, H, Officer of the guard Lieut Anderson, Co D. From each Co 3 men & from the Regt 3 Corps. & one Sgt on picket 3 men from " A " company and from the Regt 4 noncoms & one command, Lieut R.S. Munger acting brigade Q.M. and Col Sinwell commanding had a fall out and he came back to the Regt & Lieut John Martin of Co F was detailed as Brigade Q.M. & he reported for duty. Lieut Daniel Lucus of Co \_\_\_\_ acting Regt Q.M. and now at home will come to report to his company and at \_\_\_\_ his old place. There is a old man \_\_\_\_ which were Col in the rebel army but who are now at home and will not go back. This old man gives us all his forage and roasting ears as we want. He says he can do that much for the army. He is very wealthy. We are encamped by brigade, first, 78th Penn, 2nd, 21st O.V.I., 3rd, 37th Indiana, 4th, 74th O.V.I. our camp is situated in a valley between 2 of the Cumberland Mountain. About 600 yards wide in front and about 300 yards runs a pretty creek about as large as the Blanchard River & just on the bank of the river on the foot of one of the Mountains is the railroad along which goes the train hourly drawn by the iron horse to snorting and foaming in his haste to reach his destination at the appointed time. Just above the track and far back tower the mountain of Cove Run. The mountain runs get to the height of 700 feet and back 3 1/2 miles. The men's tents are all in a row and in the rear of these and 300 yards distant are the line of officers tents in one row, in rear of these & 50 yards distant are the tents of the field & staff, in the rear of these and about 20 yards distant are the tents of the Regimental hospital & sutler & in the rear of these and about 150 yards on the slope of the mountain are the tents belonging to the Brigade Headquarters. In the rear of these and on either flank extended. The turn of the mount Cave Run. Almost all the \_\_\_\_ of a soldiers like have we are \_\_\_\_ with the best water which the south can afford. The rumor is that Ft Wagner is ours, that Sumpster has been retaken and Charleston has been reduced to ashes. Our baggage has been cut down again and all the teams taken. We are only allowed one wagon to the brigade, and all of our baggage has to be transported upon pack mules, rations and all has to be taken in this way.



CAVE SPRING, ALABAMA August 22, 1863

Morning dawned damp & cloudy. After I stopped writing last evening there was a detail came for the Capt & he was under the influence of intoxicating liquors, so much that it entirely incapacitated him. I took command & I went out 3/4 of a mile north and west from camp. I had 30 men, 3 Corps and one Sgt and myself to command. I took my station, then divided my guard into 5 reliefs, 6 men to a relief. Each Corp. took charge of a relief, the Sgt of one and I of another. Nothing occurred through the night worthy of note. But every thing passed off quietly. I was relieved at 9 A.M. and reported at camp forth-with. There was a detail of our men from each company to go out with a team for apples and peaches. \_\_\_\_\_ been under Gen Stanley \_\_\_\_\_ to the front. There was a old man near our camp who has given \$ 75,000 to us to the rebel army, and he has given \_\_\_\_\_ acres of corn. The rebels burned one part of the bridge across the Tennessee river. There were 7 loads of prisoners passed through here bound for the north. Well the bugle has warned me it is time to close, so once more, good night.

CAVE SPRING, ALABAMA August 23, 1863

Morning clear but foggy. The day was extremely hot & mercury stood at 90°. We did not have preaching today, but we had brigade drill. Three of my company got sick in ranks and had to leave ranks. Capt Vantine, Co I, officer of the day, Lieut Porter of Co B officer of the guard. From each company 3 men & 3 Corps. & one Sgt from the Regt in camp guard. Our Cavalry made a \_\_\_\_\_ away yesterday and carried off a few prisoners. \_\_\_\_\_ is making demonstrations in front of Chattanooga, whilst McCook has crossed he now below for the purpose of a flank movement. Thomas's Corps is threatening the town on the west. I had company & find James Merrill, Russell Rice, Joshua Rogers, three cleanest soldiers & Sgt Rogers, Abraham Wallace, Lyman Eames the cleanest guns & equipment. The three dirtiest Thomas Manniham, Jefferson Manniham. Good night.

CAVE SPRING, ALABAMA August 24, 1863

So warm this morning calm and foggy & very hot, mercury runs to 94°. We were busily engaged in making out a list of names of the men who wants to get Henry Rifles. This rifle shoots 16 times, when we load we put in 16 loads along line. Col Neibling & Sgt Major Blakesley returned to camp today. Five pontoons passed along today and they will get to the Tennessee tomorrow & on the 26th at 4 A.M. They will commence laying them across & then look for a move. Officer of the day is Capt Wicker, Co E, Officer of the guard Lieut Vance, Co D, from each company 9 privates and from the Regt 9 Corps & one Sgt. heard from my receipt for \$300.00 which sent by Williams, Ohio State agent. The Capt is under the influence of intoxicating liquors this afternoon & tonight and he and the boys are just more than raising hell. Gen Rosseau has obtained permission to mount 16,000 men ? and arm them with Sharps Carbines and Rosie is to mount 6,000 regular cavalry. The 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 14th Army Corps are going in for the Henry rifle. My company went to a man for the big gun. The gun cost \$32.00, but it is time to stop writing. Good Night.

CAVE SPRING, ALABAMA August 25, 1863

Made camp, cool and cloudy. It rained the greater part of last night and the air is very cool and damp. Officer of the day, Capt Caton, Co H, officer of the guard Lieut Bumfore, Co H. From the Regt, 2 Corps & one Sgt & 9 men from each company. Col Stoughton was up at Headquarters all day trying the \_\_\_\_\_ of having the 21st armed with the Henry rifle. But his suit failed & he came back with bad news for the boys. They were set up very much upon having the 16 shooters. Capt Valentine is & had been under the influence of intoxicating liquors all day & has not been able to perform the duties placed upon the commander of a company. We have received orders to police our camp and shed our tents. I have nothing to note of importance today.



CAVE SPRINGS, ALABAMA August 26, 1863

Morning clear & cold. very cool through the last night. We have the following calls & their order. Revile & roll call 4 A.M., Breakfast 6 A.M., Surgeons call 7 A.M., Guard Mounting 8 A.M., Drill call 9 A.M., Recall from drill 11 A.M., Dinner & roll call, Noon, Dress parade, 5 P.M., Supper 6 P.M., Retreat & roll call at twilight, Tattoo and roll call 8 P.M., Lights out 10 P.M. Officer of the day Lieut Patterson Co C, Officer of the guard, Lieut Drubls Co H, The usual number of Noncoms & privates. Lieut Lamb Co B, likewise picket, 4 men an one noncom from each company to guard the railroad bridge. Capt Canfield of Co K, officer of picket guards, Capt Vantine of Co I as usual intoxicated. I made a purchase of 1 bushel of potatoes & 4 chickens today & I am going to live pretty well for a few days. the artillery in front was distingable, but no news from that direction. I will close for now, good bye.

CAVE SPRINGS, ALABAMA August 27, 1863

Morning cold and foggy. Last night was very cool there is a good deal of chill fever in camp. There has been a court of inquiry called to explain the officers who been reported absent without leave. Col Stoughton is president of the court. We has the regular routine in camp this morning. the usual details were made, Capt Cussac officer of the day, Lieut Mahoney of Co K, officer of the guard. After guard mounting Lieut J.R. Porter of CO G & I left camp for the purpose of visiting Mount Cove Run. We visited the different caves & rocks with the coal mine. From the base of the Mt. to the summit of the south cliff is about 1000 feet. I ascended to the mountain top in the N.W. part. When within about 300 feet of the top the rocks were piled so nicely that one could step from one to the other until within about 60 feet of the top when the top raised so abruptly that it caused us to come to a stand still. We looked around for a short time when we observed a rift in the rock large enough to admit a man. The aperture run back for a great distance and extended to the top of the rock. 3 of the boys climbed up through this opening to the top. They could go up but when they were once started there was no retreat. They were like the ambitious youth who caved his name above George Washington. Oh what a beautiful site-burst-upon the vision as far as the sight would extend to the east the west and the north & north west. Nothing but mountain scenery presented itself to view. And to the south & south east the beautiful valley of the Tennessee river dotted the camps & now & then a burst of wild and rich music would sound upon the ear, whilst the feathered songsters caroled forth their praises to the God of nature. the boys amused themselves by loosing rocks and hurling them over the preface. down, down they went with head long furry now gathering strength and again meeting \_\_\_\_\_ trust in the form of the sturdy old oak and bounding from it's trunk over the more tender and delicate of the forest beauty. The delicate shub. this mountain is clothed with the most magnificent-poplar & chestnut. With an enduring growth of grape vine laden with the most beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ grape.

The Capt is as drunk as ever and no signs of being any better. I received an order containing the information that private Samuel Linton of Co I was discharged on August 19, 1863 cause Phithsis Pulmonidis. But it is roll call and I must stop writing for to night once more good night.

CAVE SPRINGS, ALABAMA August 28, 1863

Morning clear & cold. The Capt is sober for once in a week. the usual routine in camp life. this morning, Capt Alban of Co F officer of the day. Lieut Mercer of Co E, officer of the guard. A busy day today policing camp. At no time was there than as of Co I present for duty. They are allowed to go and come just when they please. Col Neibling came around to bid us good bye this morning before I was up. He is going to be absent for 2 months. He had handed in his resignation but the commanding General would not accept the resignation, and gave him a leave of absence for 60 days for the purpose of recruiting. he left and about 9 A.M. Col Jim was back in camp. Just when he was taking his leave of Stephenson, an order came to detain him as a witness upon a court Marshall. So Col Jim did not go home this morning. We received news that Charleston had fallen and that Lee had attacked Mead and was beaten. But with what results is not known, or did we learn the causalities on either side. the weather is very pleasant and the health is pretty good. A few cases of the ague and chill fever. there is two officers of Co A and Lieut Buffin of Co H. One of General O.M. Mitchell's men.



CAVE SPRINGS, ALABAMA AUGUST 29TH 1863

Morning clear and cool. After the regular routine of camp duties, the Regiments in the brigade were marched out upon the color line in front of the brigade and after drill had been sounded two privates in Battery G, 1st Ohio steel guns were marched ( after having the right side of their head shaved) with heads uncovered & hands fitted behind them at double quick down the back, the whole length of the brigade and then reported to their battery for duty. I went up to headquarters. I reported to the mustering officer for muster. I was first mustered out as 1st Sgt Co G, then in as 2nd Lieut Co G. Then out as 2nd Lieut of Co G then in as 1st Lieut Co I, 21st O.V.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Wood deceased. John R. Porter 4th Sgt Co G was mustered in as 2nd Lieut Co G. Robert Dilworth promoted. One brigade of Jeff C. Davis Division crossed the Tennessee river this morning and posted 9 buttering and the adjoining hills to command the ford whilst the pontoon brigade is being thrown across the river. Our advance is crossing rapidly. We have orders to be ready to march at a moments warning with 2 days rations in haversacks. Capt Allen of Co D officer of the day, Lieut Bunipos of and Lieut Anderson of Co D, detailed as brigade guards with 4 men & 6 noncoms. lieut Keller of Co F, officer of the picket guard with 30 privates and 4 noncoms. I received and order to the effect that any officer who allows straggling in his command here after or who will permit a absents from camp without a pre-approval by the Col of the Regt. & brigade commander will be recommended for no more promotions as such plain proof of the inefficiency of an officer can not be looked over any longer.

CAVE SPRINGS, ALABAMA August 30, 1863

Very cool in the fore part of the day, but got very warm toward noon. We have just received a dispatch that Sumpter & Wagner have fallen. Our troops are rapidly crossing the Tennessee river. officer of the day, Capt Allan of Co D, officer of the guard, Lieut Dilworth of Co I. brigade dress parade at 5 P.M. We have orders to be ready to march at 8 P.M. with 9 days rations. The staff officers have orders to take 90 days rations so I presume we will cross the river tonight. I have one man by the name of Whitmer, of Co K under guard. He deserted the Regt the 2nd day of April one year & 4 months since. We have just finished our muster & paroles for the year ending August 31, 1863. So good bye to Cave Springs.

CAVE SPRINGS, ALABAMA August 31, 1863

When I stopped writing last eve. I stopped to march and after 24 hours. I find myself in the same old camp. I took off my guards last we are ready to march. We were ready to march when the order came countermanding the order of march. So you see we did not march. The confirmation of the fall of Sumpter and Wagner & the Gilmore has been throwing Greek fire into Charleston. We have an order to take 30 days rations with us, 3 in our haversacks and 12 in our wagons. The supply train is to have 15 days rations for each company. I noticed in the Nashville Union that the 14th Army Corps was to go to the department of the Gulf. if that be true we will be under the command of Gen Grant. Officer of the day Capt Wicker of Co E. Officer of the guard Lieut Vance of Co D. We are to march tomorrow. We had a man return to the Company from the hospital. The Regt. was mustered today and our muster pay rolls have gone in.

CAMP OF THE 21ST O.V.I. September 2, 1863

On the morning of the 1st the guards were called. The officer of the guard Lieut Dribbs of Co H, officer of the day Capt Caton of Co H. We also sent out pickets off picket guard Lieut Richards, officer of the bridge guards, Lieut Patterson of Co C & Lieut Lamb of Co B. At 5 P.M. we received orders to march at 6 P.M. We pulled out at 6 P.M. and marched until this morning when we reached our present position were we stopped and bivouacked in a open field for the night. We crossed the river at 12 M.

CAMP OPPOSITE, BRIDGEPORT, ALABAMA September 3, 1863



We pulled up at 7 A.M. yesterday morning and marched until 6 P.M. We crossed the Tennessee for the purpose of cutting off the retreat of the chivalrous Bragg should he attempt to leave Chattanooga. We crossed 8 miles below Bridgeport and marched 3 miles that night and all day yesterday and when we halted for the night we were just opposite Bridgeport. When 2 hours march on a direct road would have brought us to that point. We received a dispatch last eve that Chattanooga was being evacuated. the 4th Reg cavalry made a raid into town yesterday there were one hundred and ten rebels came in with their arms and gave themselves up without condition. They took the oath. We have had a very dusty march. Our wing lay along the Tennessee, Oh how magnificently grand this majestic old river appears., Spread out in the bright September sun. The flowing of this river reminds me of the march of the union army southward. Oh that it's flow may be as irritable as the flow of this river. Nothing important occurred during the night. They took up their \_\_\_\_ upon the rebel fort - so as to be seen at all points at 7 A.M. We pulled up and marched 24 miles when we came to the fort on the Lookout Mountain, facing Bridgeport, up which with weary steps we slowly ascended. We have just 2 miles from the foot of the mountain to the top. I have reported a little from the road and am seated upon the top most peak & have the most extended view, with my glass I can see Bridgeport. I can also see a long stretch of cavalry traversing the road toward the enemy. I can also look down upon our last night camp a distance of 3 miles on an air line. officer of the guard Lieut Cleghorn of Co I ( yesterday). We do not have an officer of the day whilst on march. 60 feet of pontoon bridge was destroyed and 5 teams were lost. officer of the guard, Lieut Mahoney of Co K. The guards bring up the rear of their own Regt. Our music is playing Dixie. We lay upon the Mt until 2 P.M. We had the Artillery and provision train to move up the mountain roads, and with the dust have very nice time. We marched about 8 miles when we halted. We crossed a very deep ravine, through which ran a beautiful creek and upon which was built a span mill to the bank and upon which extended a platform to either side of the mill to the bank and upon which we crossed the ravine. We passed to the south side & once more bivouacked for the night. We cut the upper story of the mill away and made a bridge over the ravine in this way. if it had not been for the mill we would have had to remain here for at least 2 days building a bridge. Just before we left the Mountain we ran across a very large yellow rattle snake.

#### CAMP OF THE 21st O.V.I. Sept 4, 1863

We pulled out at 7 A.M. and marched across the mountain. We stopped for the night 4 miles in Georgia. The mountain is about 3 miles high as we come up and 3 1/2 as we come down and what roads. Water is very scarce and far between. We had a very slow march our way was impeded with fallen trees and blown rocks. we had roads to repair and trees and rocks to take away to admit the purpose of our transports. We captured a bushwhacker he says there are 25,000 troops in Chattanooga. he says that when \_\_\_\_ our men was throwing shell into town. He says they will give us fight there were a brigade of rebel cavalry here this morning but they got up and when they heard of our coming. There are six Regts. of infantry and 1500 cavalry within six miles and we are going out in the morning to rout them. One of our mounted infantry was shot by a bushwhacker.

#### CAMP OF THE 21ST O.V.I. Near Trenton, Georgia

Raining as usual ( on account of a heavy dew) damp. The night was very cool and the day very hot. We received orders to be ready to march at 9 A.M. So we were up and about on time. We marched 6 miles through various and a curious route over mounts and along valleys. The first scenery worthy of note was a thriving little place not yet named when the rebels started to build an arsenal. The furnace had been completed and a railroad graded from the regular line to the rolling works. They commenced these works last March and they had paid it through since that time. they had 500 Negroes to work upon it until last Friday. \_\_\_\_ when they run them back to Macon. The next was a mill in which was over 400 bushels of wheat. The next was mill in which was 150 bushels of wheat. We guarded the mills and sent back for teams and confiscated it. We also found 50 sacks of salt and a lot of tar and various other articles buried all of which was confiscated. We bivouacked for the night on a steep hill amongst rattle snakes, lizards & etc.



#### CAMP OF THE 21ST O.V.I. September 6, 1863

We stopped all night in the vicinity of the mill we had no blankets. But we had plenty of straw and fire and all the chickens, potatoes & \_\_\_\_\_ that we wanted to eat. We let our rendezvous at 6 this morning and returned to camp when we arrived we found our division all ready for march and waiting for us so we went to work in earnest getting ready. When we pulled out from camp, hurricane it was 11 A.M. of the 6th. We marched 10 miles and halted for the night. We marched about 16 miles that day, 6 miles from the mill back to camp. A lot of tobacco, lard, powder & tar all buried near the old citizens house all of which we confiscated. 3 of Co D boys left their post while on picket this morning and went to the house of a citizen and took chickens & honey & whilst they were absent the Co was relieved. As we were marching we met the boys coming in. The General met them & arrested them and ordered the right - side of their heads to be shaved and they marched up and down the brigade to the rogues march and then returned to duty. They were to have straggling in large letters pasted upon their backs. We all appealed to the General's sympathies & he spared us the mortification of such a humiliating scene. We arrived within 4 miles of Johnson Creek just about when the lad out mountain makes a grand curve in the form of a horse shoe. The enemy have possession of the pass and we will have to drive the rebs before we can cross the mountain. The day was desperately hot and the Corps Commander commended us for the manner in which the march was conducted. We camped close to a beautiful little creek and a splendid spring of cool water.

#### JOHNSONS CREEK, GEORGIA September 7, 1863

We fell out at 6 A.M. and marched up the valley to Lookout Mountain where we camped. We only marched 4 miles today. the Mountains being so difficult to cross the brigade which proceeded us did not get up that day. Officer of the guard Lieut Dilworth Co I. I was rear guard ( or rather in charge of the rear guard) . We just more than had an easy day to day. But as I have nothing of importance to enter, I will close for today.

#### LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA September 8, 1863

At 4 A.M. the bugle sounded reveille & we had but 1/2 hour to get breakfast and fill our canteens with water. At 4 1/2 the bugle sounded the assembly. We then fell in and marched up the mountain a distance of 2 1/2 miles. At a distance of about every 200 yards we left a company to assist the artillery and supply train up the hill. I marched my guards up to the top of the Mountain and stacked arms and lay down and more than enjoyed ourselves. We had a good time in general whilst the Regt. were going in upon the nerve. The wagons were crossing the mountain all last night and are coming up at present. officer of the guard Lieut Dilworth of Co I. Two men of the 42nd Indiana and one of the 88th were badly wounded whilst engaged in routing the rebs from the mountain pass. Major McMahon of the 21st O.V.I. threw my trunk out of the wagon and broke it and spoiled my clothes, books & etc. He also threw out our tents, blankets & 2 guns. I reported him to Col. Stoughton & he will have to pay for all that is lost. He ( of all men ) is the meanest.

#### CHATTANOOGA VALLEY, GEORGIA September 9, 1863

The reveille sounded at 4 A.M. We breakfasted and pulled out at 5:10 A.M. Our train did not get up the Mountain until 10 P.M. of the 8th. We lay upon the hill all night and this morning were ordered down to the valley. 3 of Co D's boys got badly hurt by a wagon on returning over their feet & legs. William Bensinger got an order to report to Nashville Tennessee to organize Co C, 2nd Tennessee Colored Regt. The rebs are reported in force in our front. Officer of the guard, Lieut Dilworth. We only marched about 3/4 mile into the valley and lay in the sun all day. I was busily engaged in getting Bensinger ready to leave. He had no money. I furnished him \$ 20.00 and an introduction to Governor Johnson, Military Governor of Tennessee.



In front and next the skirmish line with the guns belching forth their deadly contents.

September 10, 1863 I was relieved from guard until this morning. William Bensinger left this morning from Nashville. We pulled out at 7 A.M. and marched about one mile when we halted and threw out a line of skirmishers to the front and then the columns advanced with cautious momentum. Our skirmish line had not advanced more than a mile when they came upon the enemy pickets. They fell back and we pushed the advance upon them closely. One of the rebel bullets missed its intended victim and struck a man by the name of Smith in Co A, passing through his blouse and a towel which he had in his blouse\* pocket and grazed the skin just enough to cause the blood to seep out. Our skirmish line advanced to the top of the hill but could see none of their concealed foes. They were not kept in doubt long as to the whereabouts, for just as they crossed the brow of the hill they received a volley which caused them to fall back a few paces, when the Capt (Alban) formed the line and advanced upon the concealed foe. The rebels had taken shelter behind a stone wall. Capt Marshall of Battery G, ran his battery upon the hill and wheeled it into place and began to ram home a shell, when the rebels saw this demonstration they skidaddled. Our line advanced and scaled the wall and then found huts, caps, pants and clothes which the rebels had left in their haste. Our scout was in front behind a tree, he hallored, rebels have you any more!, if so let us have it. We got one horse and a Lieut. on General Cheaton's staff. Said he, you got me this time, but I expect to be traded as a prisoner of war, for said he I am a regular confederate soldier. There is said to be 2 divisions under Hardee in front. They have been figuring all afternoon to cut us off from our train. We had a change of front 3 times to baffle their attempt to flank us.

IN FRONT AND IN A PRECARIOUS POSITION, GEORGIA September 11, 1863

We were awakened at 2 this morning by the Col instead of the bugle note and fell back 1 mile. The artillery had taken a position, we took our position in rear of the artillery to support it if be. We had advanced 2 miles and held our position until 2 A.M.. Our pickets we left in front and upon both flanks. Our artillery swept the plains and woods for about 1/2 hour when the cavalry made a flank movement and we had to fall back to the mountain to save our train. We did not fall back because we could not hold our position. We had chosen but to save our train. We fell back about 5 miles through the woods & over logs, brush, rocks, logs & ravines of the most uncommonly character. The roar of our artillery awakened the echoes of the forest and valleys for miles around. Our retreat was conducted in splendid order. 2 Co I boys got a call one on the leg and the other upon the abdomen. Neither of which inflicted much injury & thus ended a hard day's work and all in favor of the rebels. The loss much heavier than we. Our loss is reported 104 killed, wounded & missing. We had but 5 brigades engaged and the rebels from their own report had not less than 16 infantry & Forest's & Wheeler's Cavalry. The forces engaged was Negley's Division of 3 brigades & 2 brigades of Rosseaus division.

CHATTANOOGA VALLEY, GEORGIA September 12, 1863

Very hot today. we got to our present location about 9 P.M. of the 11th and lay by our arms all night. The rebels followed us closely last night and picket firing was kept up all night. We received reinforcements last night, Prannon's division, Reynolds came in their artillery was coming down the hill all night. We lay 1 1/2 miles further front than we did the day we crossed the Mountain. General Thomas is busily engaged in placing his artillery and securing his troops. We did not lose any artillery nor did we capture any. Our guns did an excellent work. The 2nd shot fires from battery G, did its work upon one of the rebels wagons. The shell exploded in the wagon destroying it entirely. General Payne is reported here with one division of reserve corps, under General Granger and the balance of the Corps is on the way. The 17th Army Corps from Grant is reported forming a junction with McCook & Burnside with Crittenden. Burnside captured 2000 prisoners & 14 pieces of artillery at Cumberland Gap. The 4th, Rose is reported here. The 2nd Division went to the front this evening to reconnoiter. They went out to the battlefield and found our dead unburied & hogs had commenced upon their bodies. They buried our dead & came back with the report that the rebels had fallen back and were blockading the road with rocks & trees. Officer of the guard, Lieut Mahoney.



CAMP IN CHATTANOOGA VALLEY, GEORGIA September 13, 1863

sabbath morning clear and hot. last night we had strong indications for rain. But this morning is hot and clear as ever. The rebs rifled the pockets of our dead and took off the dead and wounded. General Rosie has now arrived as was reported. The whole of Braggs force is reported at Lafayette with the exception of the Corps which failed to do. Chritenden entered Chattanooga the 6th & Rosie established headquarters then the 9th. the day passed off quietly. Officer of the guard, Lieut Mahoney, 80 men & 10 noncoms on picket.

CAMP NEAR DOVE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA September 14, 1863

Morning clear and cool. last night was cold. the day is very hot. A heavy dew fell last night. Our old waiter (Colored man) left us today & has gone to wait upon the brigade surgeon. One Regiment of mounted infantry came from McCook with a dispatch from Thomas that is the 39th Indiana from Johnson's Division. The 1st & 3rd Divisions marched here this morning. We pulled out at 10 1/2 A.M. and marched 1/2 mile into the woods where we bivouacked at present. We have one man of Company cooking for us. We sent a detail foraging. They brought in a nice hog and a lot of chickens & potatoes. The wagons were left back at the mountain.

CAMP IN THE WOODS, DOVE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA September 15, 1863

Morning pleasant, but the day very hot. We have very pleasant quarters. I bent bushes over and formed a kinda house. The sun does not but peep into our seclusion. rebel soldiers are coming in daily and giving themselves up. Bragg says he will make this the most bloody battle of the war. He is foraging and blocking the roads and pass. there is a deep cut through which he expects us to pass, he has artillery planted so as to sweep the pass. THE FOOL! We have orders to be ready to march tomorrow, so I suppose we will have to march. The 2nd & 1st Divisions did not march as was reported.

ON PICKET NEAR DOVE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA September 16, 1863

At 9 A.M. of the 15th I was ordered out with Company to support the picket line. Co's I & D went out and took position behind the chain of pickets there were several shots fired by the sentinels on the line at an imagined foe. With these few exceptions we were undisturbed through the night. We returned to camp and all went off very quietly, about noon I sent out one Sgt & 5 men on a forage expedition. They brought in a rebel soldier to camp, he states that Bragg has his whole force here & that he is being reinforced every day. The Georgia troops are all being sent to Bragg. Bragg says he will fight us here & if we whip him here he will fight us to Atlanta and if he can not whip us, we will not fight us any more. At 2 P.M. I was detailed as officer of picket guard. I took charge of 50 men and relieved station No 2, from whence I could hear rebel drums & see their signal.

CHATTANOOGA VALLEY, GEORGIA September 17, 1863

Morning clear and warm. I could hear the rebel drums from 2 A.M. until the day broke. Cannonading commenced about 5 A.M. it continued until 7 A.M. I received orders to assemble my sentinels and meet the Regiment at the cross road about 3 miles distance. The division had moved & I did not meet with my Regiment until 10 A.M. Rosie from all appearances is falling back upon Chattanooga, but his real design is to draw out the rebs near Ringold, Georgia. We had a nice little fight this morning upon our right. Our division was not engaged. Col Wilder with his cavalry or mounted infantry made a dash and captured a fine lot of beef cattle. About 1 P.M. the rebs opened a battery on a part of our advance, but were compelled to return after they fired one dozen shots. We are now 8 miles from our old position upon the Chattanooga road. The dust is full 6 inches deep and in the evening we could not see over 30 yards in any direction. For the dust, never did poor soldiers look dirtier, than did we when we went to camp today.



IN THE FRONT & HUNTING FOR BRAGG    GEORGIA September 18, 1863

We did not move this morning. The day is cold and very uncomfortable. We have just received orders to draw 3 days rations and be ready to move with a moments warning. Well, we are ready to move & I must stop. At a halt, and 6 miles north east of our last night camp. We pulled out at 4 P.M. and was on the road until 9 P.M. when we halted but had orders not to lye down for we had to move at 1 P.M. as we have to go to the rear to escort a train through to the front.

BESIDE THE ROAD 9 MILES FROM CHATTANOOGA September 19, 1863

Two years since I was mustered into the service of the U.S. Very cold for this time of the year. We were moving until 3 A.M. when we halted and slept until 5 A.M. We then marched and about 40 rods & stacked arms and breakfasted. We lay there until 8 A.M. when Co I & E were detached and sent out upon the skirmish line. While the balance of the regiment were marched back to the brigade. Cannonading has been kept up briskly for sometime. there has been a succession of hostilities for a short time. Our line of operation has been formatial. Bragg is trying to retake Chattanooga. Some of our forces captured a rebel courier with a dispatch to Johnson to report to Chattanooga as soon as possible. Jeff Davis has ordered Bragg to retake Chattanooga at all hazards. Wood was engaged yet afternoon. If we have the amount of troops here which has been reported I think we have enough to whip old Braggs forces out of Georgia. Burnside with 2 corps, Rosie with 4, Chrittedend, Thomas, McCook & Granger with the reserve Corp and one Corps from the Mississippi. The fight commenced early this morning & about 3 P.M. it became general. We were upon double quick for about 3 miles, as we came up we met a flood of wounded on foot and the ambulances were running busily carrying dead and wounded to the read. The rebs had driven us 3 or 400 yards but we came in in time to turn the tide of battle. The fight lasted until after night when darkness put an end to the conflict. At 7 P.M. firing commenced upon the left. Our left drove back the rebs right handsomely. Picket firing was kept up all night. We lay upon our arms.

IN FRONT AND THE FIRING IN CAUSING ALL ALONG THE LINE 8 A.M.  
SABBATH MORNING September 20, 1863

Last night was very cold and a frost descended with effect upon the poor soldiers lots of whom lay without blankets and some without supper. We had 2 men killed in Co A and Lieut Mason of Co B was struck with a spent ball but did not break the skin. 2 men of Co B were wounded slightly. Our front is engaged in a skirmish. The report is that we captured 3 Regiments of rebs & 9 pieces of artillery. The rebs took 4 pieces from us, but we recaptured them. The battle is raging upon our left with awful roar of artillery & clash of small arms. Our skirmishers are falling back slowly, 11 A.M. and the rebs have turned our left slightly. We now occupy a position one mile left of our position this morning, firing has ceased for the present. 12 M & the battle rages with redoubled fury all along the line with doubtful effect. 12 1/2 and the rebs have turned our right and charged. Our men fall back but ralley and repulse the rebs and drive them over the hill. Then the yankees charge just hear the chorus.

4 MILES FROM CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE September 21, 1863

After the fight ended the nigh was spent in \_\_\_\_ till after midnight when I halted, but a hand full of men I had left the fight ceased about 7 P.M. when we fell back within 4 miles of Chattanooga, where we rested until morning. When I closed yesterday the bullets were flying so thickly that duty called me to my post.

The battle raged until 6 P.M.. The 21st took position on a sharp curving ridge and were ordered to hold the point. We took position at 11 A.M. until 9 3/4 P.M. 7 times did the rebs charge the hill and 7 times were they thrust back with bleeding & thinned ranks. After ammunition failed we still held the hill. twice did the rebs charge the hill. The first time they thrust back at the point of the bayonet, but the 21st was a success and we were forced to return beneath the hill. We once more charged the rebs there center gave



way and the right and left closed in upon us & Regt. where is it? Only 120 men out of over 500 fighting men who went into the battle. Our colors are in the hands of the rebs but thank God they were not disgraced. 120 men left, no colors, no field or staff officers & but 6 command officers left. Nearly all our noncoms fell. Col Stoughton fell severely wounded in the arm by a sharpshooter. The Major took command but is missing. Capt. Alban fell wounded & is a prisoner. Capt Cussac wounded and a prisoner. Lieuts Keller, Brown Co F, Oranblus Co H, Richards Co A, wounded. Capt Caton reported killed. Capt McKey Co E, Lieut J.R. Porter Co G, Mahoney Co K, Patterson & Spuffend Co C, prisoners!, Capt Canfield Co K prisoner. We have one Capt (Vantine) Co I & 5 Lieuts Lamb Co B, Mercer Co E, Bumpus Co H, Dilworth Co I, W. Vance Co D left to the regiment. Early in the afternoon your humble servant was struck upon the shoulder by a glancing grape disabling his arm for a short time but did no material injury. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division has been with drawn about 3 P.M. and we left but all glory to the cause in which so many of the brave boy's of the 21st shed their life blood. We had been attached to cannon to support- a battery but when his artillery had expended their ammunition we with drew, both division and artillery and left us to hold the ground. The reserve Corps came in and charged over us down the hill with hip halloo & but as quickly turned the tune and charged back over us and we again left to hold the hill against the advancing columns of the rebel horde.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE September 22, 1863

My history was cut short yesterday by skirmish firing upon the hill beneath which I was setting. We marched to the top of the hill and repulsed the rebels. We killed 7 that I saw all of whom were shot through the head and a number of wounded. We had 2 wounded 10 minutes to 11 A.M. and our line are once more forming. there are 3 lines in front of the fortifications & 2 in front of us between us & the first lines. There are 6 lines & by this you can see that we have taken to the rear & that but as yet we have suffered from missiles of death & destruction. neither Burnside or Grant have reinforced us yet. Burnside is reported advancing, and we expect him against noon. One regt of his cavalry under Col Brownlord is her and reports Burnside advancing with all possible speed. Capt Vantine of Co I, commands the regt. The citizen's are leaving with all haste. 3 P.M. & the rebs has opened upon the right. Not much firing. The rebs are trying to effect a crossing above & below town. If they susceede we are all gone up. Burnside's troops are on hand.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE September 24, 1863

There were but little fighting yet. We were at work upon the forts and stretches of earth works all night. Last night and the troops are very busy today. Our batteries have been shelling. The rebels wagon train skidaddled. To stretch out our lines of works we would have a stretch of 15 miles. The rebs are very quiet but busy & rapid in their movements, if the rebs attack us in front there will be the biggest burying ground ever known since Noahs flood. General Rosie is riding around the line viewing the works and talking to the boys. We says all he wants is for them to come on.

BEFORE CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE September 24, 1863

Last night was beautifully light- with nothing to obscure it's brightness but the thick dust and smoke of artillery. The last part of the night was very cold. All is quiet in the fore part of the day, with the exception of skirmishing in front. McCook blew up the pike on Lookout Mountain and threw it down into the railroad top prevent the rebs from crossing. We sent out 3 divisions to draw the rebs out to the wood which was a success. Our artillery opened with effect upon them, and drove them back. The day is obscured with dust and the smoke of artillery.



BEFORE CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE September 25, 1863

All quiet in front- we were at work upon the fort today. A very busy skirmish took place last night in which a no fell upon both sides. We captured a Major and 13 privates. A citizen turned over 7 barrels of whiskey to the Q.M. & we went out for it. The skirmish lasted about 1 1/4 hours. Our men got the whiskey. the rebs opened their batteries upon our lines this evening and threw a few shells at the forts but with what effect I have not yet learned.

BEFORE CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE September 26, 1863

Morning clear & cold, upon the fort. The rebs shelled the fort but could not reach it. They advanced their lines every night. their sharpshooters are at work upon our pickets. Nothing of importance occurred today. the skirmishers fight every night. Dust is tremendous.

BEFORE CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE September 27, 1863

Sabbath morning clear & calm & very hot. The rebs started us quick last night. They opened on our skirmish line. We stood to arms a short time and then lay down, slept till morning. I call over to the 65th & 99th. The boys were in good spirits. The sharpshooters were popping away at our boys. All is quiet in front. The surgeon called up to see for the first time since the fight. The health of the boys is good.

BEFORE CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE September 28, 1863

Morning clear & cold. We have gone into camp. A number have no tents, your humble servant one amongst the number. We would have a very pleasant camp if there was not so much dust. As usual a part of last night was spent in stands and the morning from 3 till day standing at arms. A flag of truce went out and a consultation was held insight of our works which lasted until evening. We had a train of ambulances went out to bring in our wounded who are in the rebel hands. There were 208 went out. All quiet in front.

BEFORE CHATTANOOGA September 29, 1863

Charles Tyler a Corp. of Co I who was wounded severely in the arm on the 20th inst was buried yesterday. The boys gave us a flurry last night again. Burnside engaged the enemy today but with what success I can not say. Our ambulances train came in this evening heavily loaded with the wounded. I have been busily engaged with the rolls & returns etc. We were at work upon the fort last night. Some of our wounded look well and are doing well. Their wounds had been well cared for.

BEFORE CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE September 30, 1863

The night was cold. the morning cloudy & unpleasant. The Capt commanding the Regt. was drunk all night and much of today. Harvey Brease a private of Co I, who was wounded through the knee & near the hip in the fight of the 20th died in general hospital, Chattanooga this morning. Thus it is, the good & brave must die. 18 men of Co I have offered their lives upon the alter of their country. Those who fight must expect to die & what a death, all glory to them dust, may they rest in peace. Our train of ambulances have gone our one more time. The rain is falling steadily. Dr Young has come back to the Regt. & pitched his tent. I have just gotten my reports & papers all right. All quiet in front. We have wire stretched all along in front of the fortifications & I think if the rebs charge us they will find a falling off. But it is late & I must turn in for the night.



BEFORE CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE October 1, 1863

Morning wet & disagreeable. the rain fell all night. When I awoke the camp was all flooded with water. rained all day a number of our wounded prisoners came in last eve & night. All quiet in our front. the report is, Burnside fought a battle yesterday with Longstreet. Burnside did not participate in the fight nor did any of his forces. Form a junction with Rosie for several days after the fight. When Burnside received the dispatch from the war Dept. to reinforce Rosie he telegraphed that he would as soon as he had taken Jonesboro. They telegraphed him to reinforce him right off. in 2 days he telegraphed that he had taken Jonesboro & was going to reinforce Rosie & that is reason why he was not here. We had one Battery of siege guns come in today. The supply train came to the river, but could not get across.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE October 2, 1863

Morning clear & pleasant. The rain ceased last night and the sun arose & dried the ground nicely. Our train which went out for our wounded came in last night. We received a signal last night to have every thing ready for an attack. the General in command expected an attack this morning, but it has not come yet. Well, I must go to town to visit my boys who are sick of wounds in the hospital & take their descriptive rolls etc. Jefferson Manahan of my Co is not killed as I thought but is in the hospital with a severe wound. A shell exploded in camp this morning wounding 5 men. The rebel cavalry captured a train for us today. Lieut Porter & orderly Sholtz, returned to camp this evening. the rebs are moving around to our right and are closing in upon the left & center. The 21st train was captured within 5 miles of camp, our sutlers wagon, with a full load was captured. the rebels are very quiet in front. One surgeon of our army was paroled and sent back with the wounded through the lines, he broke his parole & there are 60 men in the rebels hands & they will be held. there was a detail sent out of the Regt. today with a forage train and were captured, We have orders to have ready 3 days rations in our haversacks & canteens full of water & be ready for any emergency. Since last pay day our grub has cost us Capt ( \$24.40 ) Dillworth ( \$26.18 ) Claghorn ( \$20.00 ) Total ( \$73.58 ).

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE October 3, 1863

Morning clear & calm. All quiet in front. Nothing worth noting occurred today. The lower bridge was washed away yesterday. The river is rising rapidly. The rise occasioned by the late rain.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE SABBATH October 4, 1863

Rather cool this morning. I have just finished filling out 3 descriptive rolls for 3 of my men. Philison Hutchinson, Corp Alfred Dean & Jefferson Manahan. Philison Hutchinson was wounded in the arm & breast severely. Dean in the thigh & Manahan in the thigh. I have just received orders to have my Co ready with 3 days rations for a forage trip, so I will stop until evening.

Evening and on top of \_\_\_\_\_ Mountain 19 miles from Chattanooga. We left the river about 3 P.M. with 31 wagons & 189 men and drove 19 miles up this Mt 1 3/4 miles from the bottom to the top & a very bad roads.

BACK UPON THE MOUNTAIN October 5, 1863

Morning was very cold. A heavy frost fell in the night. We pulled out at 5 A.M. and went down the mountain and up the valley 3 miles. We loaded our train on an old Sech farm. The name of the man who owned the property is Robinson. He was shot by one of the union men in the country. The name of the valley is Signature Valley. We got some potatoes, apples & \_\_\_\_\_ & got back upon the Mt about sunset. This evening where we encamped for the night. We heard several shots of heavy artillery toward Chattanooga today which speaks of shells flying with there anonymous whiz & bus through the air.



CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE October 6, 1863

Back to camp once more. We started out with but one days rations & we were to be absent 3 days but the country in which we were to forage contained plenty & we did not want for meat etc. But the staff of life was rather scarce for comfortable living, however we arrived safely in camp. The nights were cold & the days cool. At night we had plenty of rails & in the daytime exercise to keep us warm. One old union man on the top of the mountain told us that the rebs took his son-in-law out & tied him to a tree and shot him to death. He was struck by 4 balls. The old man says he has worn eternal enmity to the rebs & he will be revenged. he with other union men took their guns & bushwhacked for our men when the rebs attacked & burned our train. Madam rumor was very busy as we came back to camp, said she, Braxton Bragg gave Rosie until 10 A.M. of the 4th to get his sick & wounded out of & when that time had expired he shelled the town & camp. Again she said, he gave Rosie the above time to remove his wounded etc. & numerous such reports. One was that the rebs had advanced & our men repulsed them. But when I came to camp, I heard as near straight as one is likely to hear. the news from Col Sorwell is that Bragg sent word to Rosie to surrender & if not, to send away his sick & wounded against 10 A.M. for he would shell the works & the town. neither of which Rosie complied with. So Bragg opened his batteries upon the works & the encampment 7 kept it up all day & into the night without effect. One man of Battery G, 1st Ohio was wounded in the foot. Some of the shells fell uncomfortably close to head quarters & those of the men. Several shells exploded over our encampment of the 21st, but the rebs were fooled for we were not at home. They threw 12 & 32 Lbs. The Col says our men kept running around as usual and the few of the batteries threw shells as though they could not reach the rebs long ranged guns. But only a few shots were fired in reply to the rebs.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE October 7, 1863

Morning wet & cold & uncomfortable. the rain commenced falling in the night & is falling rapidly this morning. But I have orders to report to the fort with Co A, F, & I so I must close until noon. I took charge of the 3 Co's before mentioned out to the fort & worked 2 1/2 hours like a good fellow. We are making a covered way, from our part of the fort facing towards the south to the other north. we are making it of Railway ties. We set up ties a distance of 7 1/2 feet from the one to the other then ties across the top and this covered with ties & then 4 feet of clay upon the top of these ties. Our guns are throwing shells toward the rebel lines. Generals McCook & Crittensons Corps have been consolidated & put under the command of General Granger. it is called the 4th Army Corps. General's McCook & Crittended are ordered detained to have their conduct investigated by a court of inquiry. General Negley has been relieved from the command of the 2nd Division & General Beard appointed commander. Our guns are now engaged in shelling the rebel signal station. There are reported to be heavy reinforcements on the way to the army of the Cumberland.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE October 8, 1863

2 men from A Co have been detailed to work upon the fort & 3 command officers to accompany a forage train upon another 3 day excursion. It is reported by a rebel Lieut who came into our lines, that 3 Corps had a fight a few day since. Bragg ordered a night onslaught upon our works & the troops refused to obey & a fight occurred in which a number were killed & seriously wounded. I do not vouch for this. it is also reported that the 1st, 2nd, 11th & 12th Army Corps are at Bridgeport enroute for the chivalrous Bragg. One Corps to remain at Bridgeport & 3 Corps in rear of the rebel army. General Steadman is shelling the point of Lookout Mountain & the cut in the mountain to prevent the rebs from blowing the cut into the railroad. W.D. Smith of Co I was captured he our train was burned. Our works are becoming very formidable.



CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE October 9, 1863

Morning damp & foggy. the night was cold & disagreeable. The day warm & pleasant. We received our poll books today and must make our blanks so as to be ready for the election. Several deserts came in and gave themselves up. Bragg says he will take Chattanooga if he has to under mine the works & blow them up. The works around this place are being strengthened as rapidly as possible. Nothing of note has taken place.

As usual cold & unpleasant. Our pickets exchanged papers with those of the rebels every day. We can stand upon the works and see the active movements of the rebels upon their works. Their camp fires illuminate the mountain sides and the adjoining valleys. Nothing worthy of note occurred today.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE SABBATH October 11, 1863

The regiment is at work upon the fort. The day is calm & pleasant all quiet along the front with exception of the 15th Indiana Battery which is busily engaged in shelling a point where the rebels are trying to plant a battery upon Lookout Mountain. The rebel sharpshooters are posted so as to command the road to Stephenson and they shot about 100 mules in our train for that place.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE October 12, 1863

The regiment is on the fort today to work. General Negley sent a request to see the officers of his division at his headquarters last night. We called upon him at 8 P.M. and left at 11 P.M.. We were very well entertained, with supper, toasts and speeches. But as usual some took advantage of the occasion and became intoxicated & had to be helped home rather than to their quarters. We had some very appreciative speeches to all which the General responded in brief, but with sympathetic language. General Negley is a man, a soldier and officer and a gentleman. We had the regimental parade and the General rode (with his staff) at 9 A.M. along the line. He addressed us briefly but in the manner which called forth the feeling of every soldier. He did not ailing himself nor did he blame any one for his misfortune of humiliation. The rain commenced and sprinkled slightly, but was pleasant all day. All quiet. Bragg says he will give us the hottest election we ever held.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE October 13, 1863

Morning wet, cold & very disagreeable. I was ordered out to the fort in command of Companies A, F, & I. Lieut Richards had been in command of said camps through the day but played off when night came & I had to go. it rained all night and was cold. We had a very unpleasant time. I was not relieved until 9 A.M., when I came to camp and breakfasted and got ready for election. it rained hard all day. The rebels commenced firing early this morning, but it was only pickets discharging the old loads. The election went off very quietly. We were marched out to the fort and showed our positions so that if an attack should be made, each knew our position. We are now 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, Col Sewell commands 8 regiments & Rosseau commands the division.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE October 14, 1863

The rain fell fast all night and it is still raining this morning. Our regiment were ordered out upon picket to day. We had 231 votes cast in the 21st O.V.I. 8 of which were for Vallandigham. Co G cast 18 votes 8 for the traitor nominee, but the beauty of the votes was this.... upon the back of each Vallandigham ticket was written DRAFT !!!!



CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE October 15, 1863

Morning wet cold & very disagreeable. the rain fell all night fast. The Tennessee is fast raising. A deserter came into our lines last night. he was over 3 hours creeping from their lines to ours. he says Jeff Davis was there a few days since inspecting the troops. He states there is a good deal of dissatisfaction in the army. there has been a council of war held. Longstreet & Hill were in favor of storming the works of the Yankees, but Bragg thought best not to \_\_\_\_ to rush. the rain fell fast all day to day. I sent a team and arrested the party and took them to jail. I had to write and order, get it approved by the Capt commanding & Col commanding the brigade. The news from the election is good. Brough in Ohio 30,000 over the traitor, Vallandigham. When the vote of the soldier arrives it will be 50,00 . Good enough.